

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 698

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Millard V. and J. Annette "J. J." Oakley for their contributions to Tennessee Technological University and the citizens of the Upper Cumberland region.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those community leaders and philanthropists who have dedicated their time, resources, and talents to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, two such estimable individuals are Millard V. and J. Annette "J. J." Oakley, who recently donated two million dollars to Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, Millard Oakley graduated from Livingston Academy High School in 1947; he then attended Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and graduated from Cumberland University School of Law in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakley practiced law in Livingston, Tennessee, from 1953 to 1971, during which time he was elected to four terms to the General Assembly, one term to the Constitutional Convention, and four terms as Overton County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, from 1971-1973, Millard Oakley served as General Counsel to the United States House of Representatives' Select Committee on Small Business; he also served as Insurance Commissioner for the State of Tennessee from 1975 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, Mr. Oakley has been primarily engaged in business investments and real estate ventures; he also owns a radio station in Livingston; and

WHEREAS, a committed civic servant, Millard Oakley currently serves on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Tennessee and the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Thomas Nelson Publishers, the world's largest Bible publishing company; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Mr. Oakley is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, J. J.; their marriage has been blessed with a daughter, Melissa Oakley Smith, and they are also the proud grandparents of Kendall Vaughn Smith; and

WHEREAS, a native of West Virginia, J. J. Oakley holds a degree in nursing and earned a law degree from the University of Tennessee Law School. Millard and J. J. met in Knoxville while she was attending law school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Oakley recently donated two million dollars to Tennessee Technological University, the largest single gift in university history, to fund the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Center; the Oakleys' two million dollar contribution is a challenge donation designed to spur others to donate to this worthy project; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Oakleys sponsored a Vince Gill concert that helped Tennessee Technological University raise more than \$140,000 for its School of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Oakley have also donated generously to Volunteer State Community College and the Overton County Library, a testament to their commitment to the good people of the Upper Cumberland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Oakley epitomize the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to public service that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to recognize one of Tennessee's most philanthropic families; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mr. Millard V. and Mrs. J. Annette "J. J." Oakley for their generous contribution to Tennessee Technological University's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Center, recognize their service to the good people of the Upper Cumberland region, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.